

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /120 W
----- 039661

R 261115 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0795

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

S E C R E T SAIGON 7264

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MOPS CB VS

SUBJECT: CURRENT VC/ NVA MILITARY INTENTION IN MR IV

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO/ SAIGON, AE PHNOM PENH,
AND USSAG NAKHON PHANOM 26 PAR 73. REPEATED TO YOU.

QUOTE

CAN THO 0237

E. O. 11652: GDS 1981

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, CB, VS

SUBJECT: CURRENT VC/ NVA MILITARY INTENTION IN MR IV

REFERENCE: CAN THO 0109, 0215

1. SUMMARY: THE ARVN G-2 AT MR IV PROVIDED APRIL 24 THE CONSULATE
GENERAL WITH HIS LATEST ESTIMATE OF CURRENT VC/ NVA INTENTIONS.
VC/ NVA FORCES WILL CONTINUE THEIR DRIVE TO TAKE HONG NGU. ELSE-
WHERE ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER NVA UNITS WILL SUPPORT THE HONG
NGU ATTACKS WITH PROBES AND INDIRECT FIRE ATTACKS DESIGNED TO
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PIN DOWN RVNAF UNITS. IN OTHER AREAS OF MR IV, THE VC/ NVA WILL REORGANIZE SUPPLY POINTS AND IMPROVE INFILTRATION ROUTES. THE G-2 ANTICIPATES NO LARGE SCALE OR CORPS- WIDE VC/ NVA OFFENSIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. HONG NGU: LT. COL. LE NGUYEN BINH, THE IV CORPS G-2, ESTIMATES THE PROVISIONALLY DESIGNATED NVA 9 B DIVISION WILL CONTINUE ITS DRIVE AGAINST HONG NGU FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IT WILL ROTATE ELEMENTS OF THE 207, 272, AND E-2 INFANTRY AND THE 75 ARTILLERY REGIMENTS IN THE CAMPAIGN, PERMITTING OTHER ELEMENTS TO STANDDOWN, REST, AND REFIT. THE SEIZURE OF AN ARMS ENTRY POINT AT HONG NGU REMAINS THE TOP VC/ NVA PRIORITY IN THE DELTA.

3. ACCORDING TO LT. COL. BINH, THE E-1 AND E-3 REGIMENTS OF THE 5 TH NVA DIVISION REPORTED PREVIOUSLY TO BE MOVING TOWARDS CAMBODIA FROM THEIR DINH TUONG BASE (CAN THO 0215) NOW APPEAR HEADED FOR A PERIOD OF REST, REFITTING, AND TRAINING IN CAMBODIAN SANCTUARIES. BOTH UNITS ARE SHORT OF MEN AND MAY BE SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE NEW FILLERS. ONCE REFITTED, THEY MAY EVENTUALLY BE SENT TO HONG NGU OR RETURNED TO DINH TUONG.

4. THE CHAU DOC AND KIEN GIANG BORDER: THE NVA 101- D AND 52 (AKA E-46) REGIMENTS OF THE 1 ST NVA DIVISION, OPERATING IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA OF CHAU DOC AND THE HA TIEN REGION RESPECTIVELY, HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE SUPPORTING ROLE OF PROBING BORDER POSITIONS AND ATTACKING WITH INDIRECT FIRE. THEY ARE TO TIE DOWN RANGER UNITS, IN PARTICULAR, SO THAT THE RANGERS CANNOT BE EMPLOYED AT HONG NGU. NEITHER NVA UNIT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO DO MUCH MORE THAN HARASS RVNAF. THE VC/ NVA ARE SUCCESSFULLY RESUPPLYING THE 101- D ON GIAI MOUNTAIN DESPITE 44 TH SPECIAL TACTICAL ZONE CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY.

5. ON KIEN GIANG'S BINH TRI PENINSULA ALL BUT SCATTERED FORCES OF THE 52' S K-5 BATTALION HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN. THOSE REMAINING ARE PROTECTING ARMS CACHES AND CONTESTING RANGERS CLEARING THE PENINSULA. THE VC/ NVA ARE NOT PRESENTLY TRANSPORTING PERSONNEL OR MATERIAL BY SEA BUT THE OVERLAND PORTION OF THE 1- C SUPPLY ROUTE THROUGH KIEN GIANG IS ACTIVE. ARVN INTELLIGENCE CONFIRMS THAT IN MARCH 200 TO 300 NVA SOLDIERS WERE INFILTRATED INTO THE SECRET

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1- C ROUTE TO THE Z-7 SAPPER BATTALION OF THE 95 - A NVA REGIMENT IN CHUONG THIEN. THE CHUONG THIEN S-2 BELIEVES SOME OF THE 200-300 FILLERS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE NVA 18- B REGIMENT.

6. CHUONG THIEN: THE VC/ NVA FORCES IN CHUONG THIEN ARE COMMITTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF RVNAF OUTPOSTS ALONG THEIR NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SUPPLY ROUTES IN CHUONG THIEN. IN ADDITION, THEY WILL

TRY TO INCREASE THEIR AREA AND POPULATION CONTROL IN THE TRAM TROC AND NGAN DUA AREAS IN KIEN THIEN AND LONG MY DISTRICTS. BOTH AREAS HAVE BEEN TRADITIONAL CENTERS OF VIET CONG STRENGTH SINCE 1944. NO MAJOR ASSAULT ON DISTRICT TOWNS IS LIKELY.

7. BAC LIEU AND AN XUYEN: AT THE MOUTHS OF THE GANH HOA, BO DE, AND MY THANH RIVERS, THE VC/ NVA ARE MOVING TO SECURE SHALLOW DRAFT ENTRY POINTS. THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR FORCES HAS NOT CHANGED BUT BOTH VC SOC TRANG AND CA MAU, LIKE OTHER PROCINCES IN VC MR 2 AND 3, HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO FORM NEW LOCAL FORCE BATTALIONS. THESE INCLUDE INTER ALIA THE 764 PHU LOI BATTALION IN BA XUYEN, A NEW U MINH BATTALION IN CA MAU, A TAY DO 2 IN PHONG DINH, AND THE 509 BATTALION IN VINH BINH. THE VC ARE NOT HAVING MUCH SUCCESS IN RECRUITING AND ARE RAIDING VILLAGE FORCES TO CREATE AT LEAST SHADOW UNITS. THE VC APPEAR PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE POLITICAL EFFECT OF CREATING NEW UNITS.

8. DINH TUONG: EVEN THOUGH VC PRIORITY TARGETS-- ROUTE 4 AND OUTPOST CONSTRUCTION-- REMAIN UNCHANGED, BINH PREDICTS A LOWER LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN DINH TUONG. THE VC/ NVA UNITS WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE JULY 20 BASE AREA IN SOUTHERN DINH TUONG SINCE IT SERVES AS THE VC BRIDGE TO KIEN HOA. THEY ARE ALSO REINFORCING THE TRI PHAP BASE AREA WITH ADDITIONAL MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS, BUT ARE MAKING MUCH LESS OF RESTORING THEIR POSITION IN BASE AREA 470.

9. COMMENT: THE CURRENT G-2 ESTIMATE NOTABLY DOES NOT INCLUDE A COORDINATED OR BROAD OFFENSIVE IN MR IV DURING THE COMING WEEKS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HONG NGU, THE VC/ NV ARE NOT TARGETING ANY MAJOR POSITIONS AND WILL LIMIT THEIR ACTIVITIES TO MORE TRADITIONAL SUPPLY ROUTE AND OUTPOST TARGETS. THE CONSULATE GENERAL AGREES WITH BINH' S ASSESSMENT.

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